THE ALGONQUIN ANISHINABEG NATION
LA NATION ALGONQUINE ANISHINABEG
Abitibiwinni - Eagle Village - Kitcisakik
Kitigan Zibi - Lac Simon - Long Point - Wahgoshig

MAIL ROOM
SALLE DE COURIER
2014 DEC -3 P 2:53
NEB/ONE

November 25, 2014

Mr. Gilles Dubois
President
Champion Pipeline
Montreal (QC)
H2K 2X3

Subject: Relocation of natural gas pipeline under the Ontario portion of the Timiskaming Dam Complex

Sir,

This is in response to the letter that you send to my predecessor dated October 8, 2014 on the topic title.

I was disappointed to find that your letter reached us late in October 2014 when you had taken steps with the communities directly affected several months ago. This is even more important considering that the pipeline you expect to replace crosses the Ottawa River and any potential spill in the river could have enormous consequences not only for the communities directly affected, but also for all those downstream and the members of the Algonquin communities that practice subsistence fishing on the Ottawa River.

Firstly, I want to express that this form of consultation with indigenous communities cannot be done without the consent of the community directly impacted. The communities could benefit from the same tools that you have to analyze such a project. It, therefore, seems important that the community of Eagle Village, who is member of our Tribal Council, is the Algonquin community most directly affected by this project. The community needs to have access to financial resources to look at your project and make its own impact studies. In this regard, I invite you to share with us information on the budget put aside to enable this community to hire their own experts and conduct their own studies. Until then this part of the consultation will not been fulfilled, it seems impossible for us to give our consent to such a project.

I also recall the concerns that have been raised by the leadership of Eagle Village regarding the impacts of this project on the walleye population in the river. This species is an important part of the diet of members of the Algonquin communities.

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I will add to the comments made by Eagle Village that the presence of the sturgeon, a threatened species, in the Ottawa River requires great attention. In August 1999, a study conducted by *Faune et Parcs Québec* showed the following:

> "The distribution area of lake sturgeon in Quebec is limited to the southwestern portion of Quebec. It includes to south, the river corridor, from Lake St. Francis to St. Roch des Aulnaies to the west, the Ottawa River and several networks of rivers and lakes in the Abitibi Témiscamingue. It extends north to La Grande River. The lake sturgeon is essentially benthophage. It feeds from organisms on bottom of lakes and rivers, a significant amount of insect larvae and molluscs. "

It is therefore understandable that a hydrocarbon spill on the bed of the Ottawa River could have irreparable consequences for this species, besides, as this report show, the disturbances due to dams and structures on the river bed that disrupt or stop access to breeding area of sturgeon. About the importance of sturgeon in Aboriginal and especially among the Algonquin communities, again I quote the report of *Faune et Parcs Québec.*

> "According to Mongeau (1982), historically, the sturgeon was generally appreciated by the natives. They used it as a delicacy by using it, for example, as part of the wedding feast. We do not know exactly to what extent the various tribes depended on this fish for food, but the bones of sturgeon are an important part of kitchen waste from several archaeological sites of Native American occupation in southern Quebec. "

This statement is still true today and we believe that this case should be the subject of special attention.

As is the case for vessels carrying oil, we also believe that pipeline to go under water should have a double wall to ensure that in case of breakage, the oil is contained in this within the steel sheath.

Finally, I would appreciate it if you can inform the community of Eagle Village your needs in labor for the duration of the work and the steps your company will take to encourage the hiring of Algonquin workers.

Please receive, Mr. Dubois, my best regards

Verna Polson

Verna Polson
Grand Chief
Algonquin Anishinabeg Nation Tribal Council

cc: Eagle Village First Nation
Wolf Lake First Nation
National Energy Board